

Message Text

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SUBJ: "THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM" SPEECH BY AMBASSADOR MARSHALL GREEN

SUMMARY: IN ADDRESS TO THE SCIENCES CLUB IN MELBOURNE, VICTORIA ON SEPTEMBER 25, AMBASSADOR GREEN OUTLINED THE DIMENSIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM AND SUGGESTED ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION. HE CITED POPULATION CONTROL, INCREASED PRODUCTION OF FERTILIZER AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH AS KEY ELEMENTS IN COMBATING THE PROBLEM.

TEXT FOLLOWS:

GENTLEMEN:

YOU MAY WELL WONDER WHY A DIPLOMAT -- OF ALL PEOPLE -- SHOULD CHOOSE TO TALK ABOUT THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM. IT IS CERTAINLY NOT A PLEASANT SUBJECT, AND IT IS ONE THAT ENTAILS A LOT OF SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND NON-DIPLOMATIC KNOWLEDGE. WHY THEN TALK ABOUT IT?

THE REASON I DO IS BECAUSE FOOD SCARCITY IS BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM THAT FACES THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. WE

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ALREADY SEE DANGEROUSLY LOW RESERVES OF BASIC FOODS AND SKYROCKET-

ING PRICES, WITH A POPULATION GROWTH THAT IS QUITE OUT OF HAND.

BUT I HAVE MORE PERSONAL REASONS, DRAWN FROM MY OWN EXPERIENCES SERVING IN ASIA, TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM. FOR EXAMPLE:

I HAVE SEEN THE RAVAGES OF OVER-POPULATION IN ASIA. WHEN I SERVED IN INDONESIA SOME YEARS AGO, AN AMERICAN MEDICAL TEAM, CO-OPERATING WITH INDONESIAN DOCTORS IN STAMPING OUT BUBONIC PLAGUE, ESTIMATED THAT THE AVERAGE FAMILY IN THAT PART OF CENTRAL JAVA WHERE THEY WERE WORKING HAD NINE CHILDREN, OF WHOM ONLY FIVE SURVIVED. FOR THESE PEOPLE, DEATH WAS A CONSTANT COMPANION AND YET THEIR COMMUNITIES WERE VICTIMS OF A MALTHUSIAN EXPLOSION.

IN THE PHILIPPINES (AS INDEED IN MOST OTHER COUNTRIES OF EAST ASIA) I WAS STRUCK BY THE PERSISTENT EFFORTS OF AN ENLIGHTENED GROUP DEALING WITH POPULATION PLANNING. YET POPULATION GROWS IN THE PHILIPPINES EVERY YEAR BY 3.5 PERCENT. INCIDENTLY, THE HEAD OF FAMILY PLANNING IN THE PHILIPPINES WAS A FINE, INTELLIGENT WOMAN WITH THE RATHER UNUSUAL NAME, CONSIDERING HER BUSINESS, OF CONCEPCION. WHEN I EXPRESSED SOME SHOCK AND SURPRISE OVER HER NAME, I WAS REASSURED THAT SHE WAS NOT MARRIED AND, THEREFORE, HER NAME WAS MISS CONCEPCION.

WHEN WORKING IN WASHINGTON, I NOTED THE INCREASING DEMANDS ON THE UNITED STATES FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ONLY THE UNITED STATES, WITH SOME ASSISTANCE FROM CANADA AND AUSTRALIA, HAD ANY SIZEABLE FOOD SURPLUS, AND EVEN THIS WAS GETTING SMALLER EVERY YEAR. TODAY GRAIN RESERVES WORLDWIDE ARE ONLY ENOUGH TO FEED THE WORLD'S POPULATION FOR 26 DAYS. SOME YEARS AGO WORLD STOCKPILES OF BASIC FOODS WERE EQUIVALENT TO ALMOST 100 DAYS OF WORLD CONSUMPTION.

WHEN WORKING IN JAPAN, I COULD SEE THE EXTRAORDINARY PRODUCTIVITY OF RICE PADDIES ADEQUATELY IRRIGATED AND FERTILIZED, PRODUCING MANY TIMES THE YIELD OF PADDIES IN MOST OTHER PARTS OF ASIA. YET JAPAN WAS COMING TO BE PERHAPS THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE VICTIM OF POLLUTION.

THUS, WHEN I TALK ABOUT THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM, I AM INEVITABLY TALKING ABOUT THE RELATED PROBLEMS OF OVER-POPULATION, FOOD

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SCARCITY, SKYROCKETING OIL PRICES, POLLUTION OR, IF I MAY COIN A NEW WORD: POPULLUTION.

AS I SAY, THIS IS NOT A PLEASANT PROSPECT TO CONTEMPLATE, BUT THE FOOD-POPULATION PROBLEM CANNOT BE IGNORED. SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT IT. AS A FRIEND OF MINE USED TO SAY WHEN FACING THE REALITY OF DEALING DIRECTLY WITH A TOUGH PROBLEM: WE MUST GRAB THE BULL BY THE TAIL AND LOOK THE ISSUE SQUARE IN THE

FACE.

SOME DIMENSIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM

IT MAY BE USEFUL TO OUTLINE BRIEFLY SOME OF THE DIMENSIONS AND CAUSES OF TODAY'S WORLD FOOD CRISIS.

IN A SENSE, THE IMMEDIATE BEGINNINGS GO BACK TO 1972 WHEN THE PRODUCTION OF BASIC CEREALS IN THE WORLD ACTUALLY DECLINED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS. FOR MANY YEARS BEFORE THIS THERE HAD BEEN AN AVERAGE INCREASE EVERY YEAR OF SOME 25 MILLION TONS OF BASIC GRAINS, ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF THE DEMANDS OF INCREASING POPULATION. WE HAD COME TO EXPECT AND TO TAKE FOR GRANTED THESE ANNUAL INCREASES. THEN, SUDDENLY THERE WAS, INSTEAD, A DRASTIC DECREASE. WHEAT STOCKS OF THE MAIN EXPORTING NATIONS, THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, FELL FROM 49 MILLION TONS IN 1971-72 TO 29 MILLION TONS IN THE 1972-73 CROP YEAR.

ON TOP OF THIS, THE SOVIET UNION, FACED WITH ITS OWN CROP FAILURES, ENTERED THE WORLD MARKET BY BUYING GRAIN ON A MASSIVE SCALE. MOST OF THIS WAS PURCHASED FROM THE UNITED STATES. IN RETROSPECT IT WAS SURELY AN UNWISE SALE ON OUR PART, BOTH IN TERMS OF ITS EFFECTS ON THE WORLD MARKET AND IN TERMS OF ITS EFFECT ON OUR OWN AMERICAN CONSUMERS.

TO THESE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS, ONE MUST ADD A FEW OTHERS WHICH I WILL SIMPLY LIST.

-- FIRST, IN THE YEARS LEADING UP TO 1972 THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE BOOMING ECONOMICALLY, AND THIS PROSPERITY BROUGHT WITH IT DEMAND FOR BETTER NUTRITION. IN JAPAN, FOR EXAMPLE, EXPENSIVE BEEF BECAME MORE IN DEMAND, AND GOOD BEEF REQUIRES LARGE AMOUNTS UNCLASSIFIED

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OF FEED GRAIN.

-- SECOND, WORLDWIDE INFLATIONARY FORCES AND MONETARY INSTABILITY LED TO SPECULATION IN FOOD COMMODITIES.

-- A THIRD AND FOURTH FACTOR ENTERED THE WORLD FOOD PICTURE IN 1973; SHORTAGES OF FERTILIZER AND VASTLY HIGHER ENERGY COSTS. SOME NITROGEN-BASED FERTILIZERS INCREASED IN PRICE AS MUCH AS 300 PERCENT IN A SINGLE YEAR. PETRO-CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS ROSE SHARPLY IN PRICE, AND THEY CONTINUE TO RISE TO THE POINT WHERE THEY ARE BEING PRICED BEYOND THE ABILITY TO PAY OF THE VERY NATIONS IN THE LESS DEVELOPED WORLD WHICH NEED THEM MOST.

-- IN THE UNITED STATES, THE "BREADBASKET OF THE WORLD", WE HAD, PRIOR TO 1972, TWO RESERVES WHICH WERE A CUSHION FOR THE WORLD TO

TAP WHEN EMERGENCIES AROSE. THESE WERE OUR TRADITIONALLY HUGE GRAIN SURPLUSES AND OUR FIFTY MILLION UNUSED ACRES OF GOOD FARM-LAND. THIS CUSHION IS NOW GONE. OUR HUGE STOCKPILE OF SURPLUS GRAINS HAS LARGELY DISAPPEARED AND THE 50 MILLION ACRES LONG HELD IDLE IN WHAT WE CALLED A "SOIL BANK" ARE NOW IN ALL-OUT PRODUCTION.

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-- WORLD FISHERIES ALSO DECLINED SHARPLY IN THE LAST DECADE FOR REASONS WHICH I DO NOT PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND.

ALL OF THESE FORCES COMBINED FOLLOWING 1972 TO CAUSE SOMETHING OF A FOOD PANIC. AND OF COURSE FOOD PRICES SKYROCKETED.

WHEAT WHICH SOLD FOR US\$62 A TON IN 1972 TRIPLED IN PRICE BY 1974. RICE WENT FROM \$140 A TON IN 1972 TO \$690 BY JANUARY 1974. SOY BEAN PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES JUMPED FROM \$140 A TON IN 1972 TO \$395 LESS THAN A YEAR LATER. AS FOOD BECAME DEARER, IT BECAME LESS AVAILABLE TO THE POOR COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, AND ADDED CRUSHING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BURDENS.

IN CATALOGING THIS LONG LIST OF CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM, I REFER ONCE AGAIN TO THE MAIN CONTRIBUTING FACTOR. THIS IS, OF COURSE, THE POPULATION PROBLEM. INDEED THERE IS NO "WORLD FOOD PROBLEM", BUT RATHER A "WORLD FOOD POPULATION PROBLEM". THE TWO PROBLEMS ARE INEXTRICABLY BOUND TOGETHER.

ACCORDING TO UNITED NATIONS SOURCES, THE WORLD POPULATION PROJECTION CONSIDERED MOST LIKELY TO OCCUR SHOWS THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD RISING FROM 3.6 BILLION IN 1970 TO 6.5 BILLION BY THE YEAR 2000, CLOSE TO A DOUBLING BY THE END OF THIS CENTURY.
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THE NUMBER IS THEN EXPECTED TO RISE TO 11.2 BILLION BY THE YEAR 2050, CLOSE TO A TRIPLING OF THE WORLD'S PRESENT POPULATION.

ONE HAS TO ASK: "WHERE IS THE FOOD TO COME FROM THAT WILL FEED ALL OF THESE PEOPLE? NO ANSWERS THAT I HAVE HEARD ARE REASSURING.

I AGREE WITH MR. STEPHEN WORTMAN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION, WHO SAID: "I DO NOT THINK THERE IS ANY SOLUTION TO THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION UNLESS WE GET POPULATION STABILIZED. THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING TO INCREASE THE FOOD SUPPLY HAVE NEVER ASSUMED WE WERE DOING ANY MORE THAN BUYING TIME".

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

ALL THIS LEADS TO A BASIC QUESTION: WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM OF INADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLIES FOR AN OVER-POPULATED PLANET? MIND YOU, I AM NOT SAYING WHAT CAN BE DONE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM, FOR I KNOW OF NO ANSWER NOR DO I KNOW OF ANYONE WHO HAS A REALISTIC ANSWER AT THIS TIME.

A) POPULATION MEASURES

I SUPPOSE MOST PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIA FEEL THAT THE KEY FACTOR IN ALLEVIATING THE FOOD CRISIS IS CHECKING POPULATION GROWTH. THIS IS ALREADY BEING ACHIEVED IN MANY OF THE MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THREE NATIONS -- WEST GERMANY, EAST GERMANY AND LUXEMBOURG -- HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED POPULATION STABILITY OR ZERO POPULATION GROWTH. NEARLY 20 MORE OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, NOTABLY IN EAST ASIA, HAVE BROUGHT BIRTH RATES DOWN.

HOWEVER, MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE EXPERIENCING SUCH HIGH GROWTH RATES THAT THEIR POPULATION WILL, AS I HAVE ALREADY POINTED OUT, DOUBLE BY THE YEAR 2000. HOW CERTAIN COUNTRIES, EVEN WITH GENEROUS AID, CAN SUPPORT SUCH POPULATIONS IS BAFFLING IN THE EXTREME.

HERE I SHOULD MENTION THE FRUSTRATIONS ENCOUNTERED AT THE RECENT MAMMOTH UNITED NATIONS WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE THAT
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JUST COMPLETED ITS WORK AT BUCHAREST ATTENDED BY 2,500 DELEGATES FROM 135 COUNTRIES. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES FOCUSED ATTENTION ON THE FACT THAT POPULATION WAS OUTSTRIPPING FOOD SUPPLIES AND POPULATION GROWTH HAD TO BE SLOWED DOWN. THE POORE NATIONS -- WHICH WE PREFER TO CALL THE DEVELOPING NATIONS -- BLAMED OVER-CONSUMPTION BY THE RICH NATIONS AND LECTURED THEM ON THE NEED TO SHARE THEIR ABUNDANCE WITH THE LESS PRIVILEGED. SPEAKER AFTER SPEAKER FROM THE DEVELOPING WORLD INSISTED THAT DEVELOPMENT AID WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN FAMILY PLANNING, AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MUST BE MADE PROSPEROUS SO THAT PEOPLE WILL HAVE AN ECONOMIC INCENTIVE FOR HAVING FEWER CHILDREN.

ALMOST NOTHING TANGIBLE SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED AT BUCHAREST, BUT AT LEAST IT WAS THE FIRST POLITICAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND IT WAS ATTENDED BY IMPORTANT REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL COUNTRIES. MOREOVER, IF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEVELOPED AND LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REALLY LISTENED TO EACH OTHER, THEN SOMETHING IMPORTANT WAS IN FACT ACHIEVED. FOR ANY REALISTIC ATTACK ON THE POPULATION-FOOD CRISIS MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CONFLICTING ATTITUDES AND NEED FOR COORDINATED INTERNATIONAL ACTION.

MEANWHILE, THERE IS A CLEAR NEED FOR BROADENING AND EXPANDING POPULATION MEASURES, WITH MORE GENEROUS ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD BEING EXTENDED BY NATIONS AND ESPECIALLY BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

B) WORLD FOOD RESERVES

THE MOST IMMEDIATE AREA WHERE ACTION IS REQUIRED IS IN BUILDING UP WORLD FOOD RESERVES. THEY ARE NOW DANGEROUSLY LOW. HUMAN LIVES SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE WHIMS OF WEATHER AS IS NOW THE TRAGIC SITUATION IN BENGAL AND IN SUB-SAHARA AFRICA. WE CAN DO THIS BY SETTING UP ADEQUATE RESERVE STOCKPILES OF GRAIN.

BUT ESTABLISHING FOOD RESERVES IS NOT A SIMPLE MATTER. WHERE ARE THEY TO BE LOCATED? WHO CONTRIBUTES? WHO CONTROLS? THESE RESERVES REPRESENT ENORMOUS INVESTMENTS IN A COMMODITY MORE PRECIOUS THAN MONEY -- HUMAN SURVIVAL.

COMPLICATED CLIMATIC AND OTHER CONTROLS ARE NEEDED TO PREVENT

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LOSSES THROUGH SPOILAGE. EFFICIENT AND SPECIALIZED TRANSPORT IS NECESSARY, ESPECIALLY IN TROPICAL CLIMATES.

THEN THERE IS THE QUESTION OF PAYMENT. AS A NON-EXPERT BUT AS A CONCERNED INDIVIDUAL, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT A PORTION AT LEAST OF WORLD FOOD RESERVES WHOULD BE ISOLATED FROM THE COMMERICAL MARKET AND USED SOLELY FOR FAMINE RELIEF.

C) FERTILIZERS

THE SITUATION WITH FERTILIZERS IS ESPECIALLY CRITICAL. THEY ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY AND THEY ARE EXPENSIVE. YET IF THE UNDER-DEVELOPED NATIONS OF THE WORLD ARE EVER TO INCREASE THEIR OWN FOOD PRODUCTION AND BRING INTO PRODUCTION MARGINAL NEW LANDS IT WILL REQUIRE EXTENSIVE USE OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS.

WITH THE SOARING PRICES OF ENERGY, MANY OF THESE DEVELOPING NATIONS SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE NEEDED TO SET UP THE PLANTS AND TO MANUFACTURE THE FERTILIZERS THEY SO DESPERATELY NEED. NOR, ALTERNATIVELY, DO THEY HAVE THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO BUY FOOD FROM ABROAD.

I UNDERSTAND THAT RICH RESOURCES OF NATURAL GAS FOR NITRGEN FERTILIZER ARE BEING LOST EVERY YEAR IN OIL-PRODUCING NATIONS BECAUSE MARKETS HAVE NOT BEEN DEVELOPED FOR THEM. IN VENEZUELA, NIGERIA, NORTH AFRICA AND THE PERSIAN GULF REGION, A TOTAL OF 4.5 TRILLION CUBIC FEET OF NATURAL GAS IS BURNT, "FLARED-OFF" INTO THE ATMOSPEHERE AND IS LOST FOREVER EACH YEAR. THE AMOUNT IS 10 TIMES WHAT IS USED IN THE UNITED STATES ANNUALLY TO MAKE NITREGN FERTILIZER.

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D) IMPROVING AND SHARING FOOD PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

THERE IS A CONTINUING NEED FOR MORE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH OF THE KIND BEING CARRIED OUT BY SCIENTISTS LIKE NORMAN BORLAUG, THE FATHER OF THE GREEN REVOLUTION, AND FOR DEVELOPING THE TECHNOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS OF THIS RESEARCH.

BUT RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY HAVE THEIR LIMITATIONS; AS FAR AS I KNOW, NO SCIENTIST HAS YET BEEN ABLE TO DEVISE ANY COMMERCIALLY VIABLE MEANS OF PRODUCING MORE THAN ONE CALF PER COW PER YEAR.

NOR HAVE SCIENTISTS HAD AS YET MUCH SUCCESS IN PREDICTING THE WEATHER WITH GREAT ACCURACY, MUCH LESS CONTROLLING IT. IMPROVED SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY SHOULD HELP WITH THE FORMER IF NOT THE LATTER. MORE CAN BE DONE THROUGH TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST FOOD PRODUCTION. THE FRUITS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH MUST MOVE THROUGH MANY DIFFICULT STEPS ON THE ROAD FROM THE LABORATORY TO THE PRIMITIVE FARM. PSYCHOLOGICALLY SOUND INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS ARE ALSO NEEDED AND THESE ARE FAR FROM EASY TO DEVISE AND PUT INTO EFFECT.

CONCLUSION
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FINALLY, LET ME MENTION THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE TO BE HELD SIX WEEKS FROM NOW IN ROME, UNDER UN AUSPICES. THIS IS LIKELY TO BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CONFERENCES THAT HAS EVER TAKEN PLACE WITH THE SINGLE MOST CRUCIAL QUESTION FACING THE CONFEREES BEING: "WILL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD TACKLE THE FOOD CRISIS COOPERATIVELY OR COMPETITIVELY?" UPON THE ANSWER TO THIS VERY QUESTION MAY WELL HINGE THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF US ON THIS PLANET.

THERE WILL BE PRESENT AT THE ROME CONFERENCE A KIND OF NEGOTIATING ENVIRONMENT MADE UP AMONG THE FOLLOWING THREE PARTIES: (1) THE ADVANCED DONOR NATIONS WHICH HAVE BOTH FOOD AND FOOD PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY; (2) THE OIL PRODUCING STATES WHICH POSSESS GREAT WEALTH AND OBVIOUSLY ARE IN A POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE FAR MORE ASSISTANCE THAN IN THE PAST; AND (3) THE UNDERDEVELOPED NATIONS, SOME OF WHICH HAVE THE SCARCE RAW MATERIALS WHICH MAKE IMPROVED FOOD TECHNOLOGY POSSIBLE. WHAT IS REALLY NEEDED AT THIS CONFERENCE IS AN ORDER OF STATESMANSHIP THE WORLD HAS RARELY SEEN.

FOR OUR PART, WE APPROACH THE CONFERENCE WITH A SENSE OF URGENCY. PRESIDENT FORD HAS JUST DEVOTED OVER HALF OF HIS SPEECH

AT THE OPENING OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO BOTH A WARNING AND A PROMISE ABOUT THE FOOD CRISIS CONFRONTATING THE WORLD. "LET US NOT DELUDE OURSELVES", HE SAID, "FAILURE TO COOPERATE ON OIL AND FOOD AND INFLATION COULD SPEEL DISASTER FOR EVERY NATION REPRESENTED IN THIS ROOM. A GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR FOOD AND ENERGY IS URGENTLY REQUIRED."

SO MUCH FOR HIS WARNING.

AS TO HIS PROMISE, THE PRESIDENT PLEDGED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD GREATLY INCREASE ITS OWN FOOD PRODUCTION, WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE ITS ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION PROGRAMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, WOULD HELP ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF FOOD RESERVES, AND WOULD INCREASE FOOD SHIPMENTS TO NATIONS IN NEED. HE DESCRIBED OTHER STEPS THE UNITED STATES WOULD TAKE, SAYING THAT AMERICA WOULD DO MORE THAN ITS SHARE. YET THERE ARE REALISTIC LIMITATIONS TO OUR CAPABILITIES, HE ADDED.

AND NOW, WITHIN THE PAST 36 HOURS, PRESIDENT FORD HAS DEL-
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IVERED AN UNUSUALLY SHARP WARNING TO THE MIDDLE EAST OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES ON SKYROCKETING HIGH OIL PRICES WHICH, IN HIS OPINION, POSE A MAJOR THREAT TO THE WORLD'S ECONOMY, INCLUDING THE PRODUCTION OF ADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLIES.

CLEARLY WE ARE APPROACHING A FOOD-POPULATION-ENERGY CRISIS INVOLVING EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET. STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN, BUT WILL THEY SUFFICE? WILL SCIENCE AND REASON ONCE AGAIN GIVE WAY TO NARROW NATIONALISM AND POLITICS AS USUAL? ARE WE TOO MSALL TO DEAL WITH SUCH A COMPLEX OF BIX ISSUES?

IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR AFTER LUNCHEON SPEAKERS, ESPECIALLY DIPLOMATS, TO END UP WITH PLEASANT, OPTIMISTIC ONCLUSIONS THAT DIGEST WELL ALONG WITH THE POST-PRANDIAL COFFEE AND CIGARS, BUT I MUST DESIST. FOR THE FACTS SIMPLY D NOT PERMIT INDULGENT SPECULATION. THE PROBLEMS CAN ONLY BE AGGRAVATED BY ANY ATTEMPT TO GLOSS THEM OVER.

GREEN

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